

## OTHER NOTICES

**White, E. M.** *Woman and Civilization*. London, 1940. John Bale & Staples. Pp. 62. Price 2s. 6d.

"WOMAN has not yet proved her full worth to civilization," says the author. This is indeed a comforting thought, for it seems to prove that we need not despair—even now! But Miss White's little book is a marvel of wishful thinking. It bristles with such statements as: "Physical strength has achieved its purpose in the world . . . but now force is giving way to mind and character as better ideals." There might be no world struggle taking place at all—the only allusion to it being that: "When we can detach ourselves from the present turmoils and can view woman, life, and evolution sub specie æternitatis, we can discern a great movement of slow advance all through." She deprecates "recriminations of other countries," which certainly indicates a detachment equal to that of the ostrich. Her ideals are admirable—if

only she would adopt a more realistic approach to their fulfilment.

In other words, Miss White tells us what should be and assumes that therefore it will be. Thus: "Civilization is the conquest of egoism by altruism, and the whole evolution is a witness to the rising power of human sympathy." Again: "It knows now that its fate lies in its own hands; it can make of itself what it will." But, does it know?, and even if it knows, how does it propose to "make of itself what it will"?

Eugenics is mentioned as one of the topics on which women need no longer fear to speak. "An adequate universal education could change the world in two generations." How true!, but who is going to formulate and direct this adequate universal education? If Miss White will answer some of the questions which her theme raises up, she will indeed make a valuable contribution to the cause of woman and civilization.

U. G. D.

## HEREDITY AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

By **L. L. BURLINGAME**, *Professor of Biology, Stanford University*  
369 pages, 9×6, illustrated, 24/6 net

A BRIEF and general introduction to the biology of reproduction and its consequence, heredity. It shows how and when this knowledge can or cannot be applied to social problems in the broader sense, and acquaints the student with the possible applications of biology to human affairs. It presents those elementary principles which are necessary to an understanding of the origin of certain social, educational, and political problems, and then deals with the application of these principles to the heredity of physical and mental traits of man. This section includes a brief chapter showing that both normal and abnormal traits of man are inherited in the same ways as are those of other animals and plants and that all the main types of heredity known in the latter are also known in man. From this the book proceeds to show that mental traits have the same sort of biological basis as any other functional traits and that they are similarly inherited.

### CONTENTS

Preface  
Introduction  
Reproduction  
The Mechanism of Heredity  
Mendel's Laws  
Sex and Heredity  
Gene Linkage and Crossing Over  
The Interaction of Genes  
Quantitative Variation and Multiple Genes  
Genes and Their Mode of Action  
Heredity and Environment  
Heredity of Physical Traits

Heredity and Intelligence  
Genetic Aspects of Race  
Genetic Analysis of Population Problems  
Genetic Aspects of War and Migration  
Race Problems  
The Genetics of Mental Deficiency  
Distribution of Intelligence in a Changing Population  
Heredity and Medical Problems  
Heredity in Insanity and Crime  
Heredity in Education and Government  
Bibliography  
Index

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